

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2 through 4, and 7 through 11 are pending in the present application. Applicant notes that newly added claim 16 (added in the amendment of February 7, 2005) was not entered by the Office. Claims 1, 5, 6, and 12 through 15 having been cancelled without prejudice to file a possible future continuation patent application.

In the Action, the Office stated that claims 7 and 9 are allowed. The Action further noted that claims 8, 10, and 11, although previously withdrawn, may now be rejoined into the application based upon the fact that these claims depend from allowable claim 7. The Office requested a statement from the applicant requesting this rejoinder.

Applicant hereby respectfully requests that claims 8, 10 and 11 be rejoined into the application. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7 through 11 are now all in condition for allowance.

In the Action, the Office stated that claims 2 through 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has so amended claim 2. Claim 2 is now in independent form and includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 through 4 are now in condition for allowance.

Recently, the applicant received an advisory action

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dated February 25, 2005 pertaining to this instant application. Notwithstanding that the applicant requested consideration of the applicant's Information Disclosure Statement dated March 21, 2001 and Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, applicants note that both these statements still have not been noted as acknowledged by the Office.

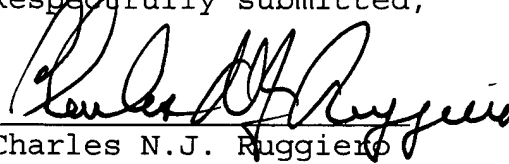
Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests again that the Office note in the notice of allowance that both applicant's Information Disclosure Statement dated (1) March 21, 2001 and Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement dated (2) August 28, 2002 have been acknowledged by the Office.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 through 4, and 7 through 11 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that the application be passed to allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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